∴ DK-US040366

IAPZOREC'O PCT/PFO 30 MAY 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Tadashi SAO et al.

Serial No New-Nat'l phase of

PCT/JP2005/009451

International filing date: May 24, 2005

For:

BRANCHING PIPE JOINT AND

AN AIR CONDITIONER PROVIDED:

THEREWITH (As Amended)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants bring the references listed on the attached PTO-1449-Form to the Examiner's attention and request that they be considered and made of record in this application.

Japanese Utility Model Publication No. 04-97263 appears to disclose a refrigerant flow diverter having a bypass pipe.

Japanese Laid Open Publication No. 2752194 appears to disclose an air conditioner unit with switching valves.

Japanese 1998 Cooling and Heating Handbook, Air Conditioning Volume, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. discloses information relating to installation cooling system. This publication discloses various Y-shaped branch pipes.

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Tarnoff Reg. No. 32,383

GLOBAL IP COUNSELORS, LLP 1233 Twentieth Street, NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC 20036 (202)-293-0444

Dated: 5-30-0

(AP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 30 MAY., 2006, 10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

of

Complete if Known

Application Number PC U 20 569451 Q Q

Filing Date International Date of May 24, 2005

First Named Inventor Tadashi SAO

Group Art Unit

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number DK-US040366

(use as many sheets as necessary)

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS Name of Patentee or Applicant of Document Number Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Publication Date Examiner Cite No. Cited Document Passages or Relevant Initials Number - Kind Code2 (if known) Figures Appear US-US-บร-US-US-US-US-USus-US-ÚS-US-US-US-US-US-US-US-US-

		Foreign Patent Document			Pages, Columns, Lines, Where	
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		JP-04-97263-U	08-24-1992	Nishinaka		No
		JP-2752194 B2	02-27-1998	Nagae		No
		JP-11-72189-A	03-16-1999	Furuta		Yes
	<u> </u>	JP-11-304297-A	11-05-1999	Suehiro et al.		Yes
		JP-2000-161807-A	06-16-2000	Yoshii		Yes
		JP-2003-35469-A	02-07-2003	Takeda		Yes
					-	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered	

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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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		Application Number	PCT/3P2005/069454	
	INFORMATION DISCLOSURE	Filing Date	International Date of May 24, 2005	
	STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	First Named Inventor	Tadashi SAO	
		Group Art Unit		
	(use as many sheets as necessary)	Evaminer Name		

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Sheet

Attorney Docket Number

Translation (Yes or No) No
(Yes or No)
No
1

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Signature	Considered	

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